

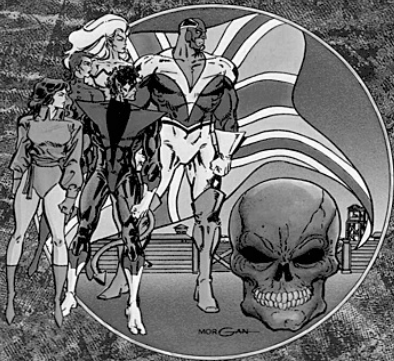
VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

MARVEL
GRAPHIC
NOVEL
I

\$9.95 US
\$11.95 CAN
£4.95 UK

EXCALIBUR™



WEIRD WAR III™



EXCALIBUR: WEIRD WAR III

Michael Higgins
WRITER

**Tom Morgan &
Justin Thyme**
PENCILERS

**Joe Rubinstein
& Tom Morgan**
INKERS

**Brad Vancata &
Joe Rosas**
COLORISTS

Janice Chiang
LETTERER

Kelly P. Corvese
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Terry Kavanagh
EDITOR

Tom DeFalco
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dedicated to Seth & Debbie Kruchkow

—MICHAEL HIGGINS

1 JULY, 1990

EXCALIBUR™, WEIRD WAR III. Published by Marvel Comics, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016. Copyright © 1990 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$9.95 per copy in the U.S. and \$11.95 in Canada. EXCALIBUR and all prominent characters appearing herein and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof is a trademark of Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. No part of this book may be printed or reproduced in any manner without the written permission of the publisher. Printed in the U.S.A. ISBN #0-87135-701-X First Printing: December 1990.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



COME ON -- OFF THE TRAIN! STEP LIVELY!

LIVELY? THAT'S A JOKE!

OH, HOW DREADFUL! IT ISN'T BAD ENOUGH THAT WE'VE BEEN TAKEN FROM OUR HOMES, ROBBED OF OUR POSSESSIONS, STRIPPED OF OUR DIGNITY --

IT WON'T BE LONG PRETTY THING, BEFORE YOU'RE ONE OF US!

-- BUT NOW WE HAVE TO BE SUBJECTED TO THE SIGHTS OF THESE WRETCHES!

NO TALKING, JUST STEP INTO THE CHAMBER!



CLANK

WHAT -- WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO WITH US?



WHAT DO YOU THINK?



IT NO LONGER
MATTERS WHO
THEY ARE —



— WHO
THEY
WERE!



THEIR PSYCHIC ESSENCES
HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY
DRAINED.



FROM WHAT ONCE WAS
THEIR BODIES?



WEIRD

WOOOOOOOOOO!



WEIRD

WOOOOOOOOOO!



WAR III



WAR III





RACHEL, MONEY...
ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?

I'M FINE,
KITTY!

IT'S
JUST...

...JUST...

GASP!!

KITTY... SHE LOOKS
LIKE THE *MAZE* VERSION
OF HERSELF THAT
WE ENCOUNTERED JUST
BEFORE THE *CROSS-TIME*
CAPER BEGAN!

SENCELEBUR
#10 --
TERRY

RACHEL,
ARE YOU
SURE YOU'RE
FEELING
WELL?

WH-WHAT--?

OH...
UH...
YES...

YES, EVERYTHING
IS PERFECTLY
NORMAL!

YOU COULDN'T TELL BY THE LOOK ON HER FACE --
EVEN NOW THAT SHE'S REGAINED THE COMPOSURE
TO CONCEAL HER SCARS!



NOK
NOK
NOK

A VISITOR--
HERE?

NOT SOMETHING
THAT HAPPENS
EVERY DAY...
BUT, WHO?



ALISTAIRE STUART!

ALISTAIRE...
I CAN'T TELL
YOU HOW HAPPY
I AM TO --

WHERE
WERE
YOU?



WHAT DO
YOU
MEAN?

YOU KNOW QUITE WELL
WHAT I'M REFERRING
TO, NIGHTCRAWLER!



THE **LEADER** HAS REQUIRED
ALL **MUTANTS** TO REGISTER--
THIS IS THE DAY HE DEMANDED
FOR ALL THE MEMBERS
OF **EXCALIBUR** TO COME
FORWARD!

VERY FUNNY,
ALISTAIRE!

I SEE NOTHING AMUSING ABOUT
THIS SITUATION!



I VOUCHED FOR YOUR
CREDIBILITY-- PUT MY OWN
NECK ON THE LINE!

YOU'D
BEST MAKE
GOOD ON YOUR
PROMISE--
BEFORE
IT'S TOO
LATE!

NEIL
NITLER!



HEIL
NITLER?

GOD AND COUNTRY!
WHAT IS GOING
ON HERE?

DO YOU
THINK IT
POSSIBLE
THAT
WE DID NOT
RETURN TO OUR
OWN REALITY
AFTER OUR
CROSS-TIME
CAPER?

PERHAPS
WE ARE ONLY
NOW BEGINNING
TO SEE THE
EVIDENCE!

IF ONLY IT
WERE THAT
SIMPLE! NO,
THIS IS OUR
WORLD, AND
YET IT ISN'T
SOMETHING
WORRIBLE
HAS BEGUN!



THE "LEADER" IS A FOOL!
WHO WOULD KNOW BETTER
THAN I -- THE MAN HE HAS
PERSONALLY GROOMED TO
BE HIS SUCCESSOR?

BUT I HAVE FAR
SURPASSED THE
LEVEL OF HIS
PEEBLE DREAMS!

MY VISION
SHALL BECOME
REALITY!



ONCE I WAS
PERCEIVED AS A
MAN OF NOBLE
INTENTIONS

NOW I AM
REVEALED
SIMPLY BECAUSE
THE RABBLE
HAVE NO
OTHER
CHOICE!



TO DEFEY ME
IS TO INVITE A
SENTENCE OF
DEATH!

MINE IS THE POWER!

MINE SHALL
BE
THE GLORY!



MINE--



AAARRRGGGGH!!



YET ELSEWHERE...



DO YOU REALLY THINK WE SHOULD BE DOING THIS?

I'M NO LONGER
CERTAIN OF
ANYTHING,
CAPTAIN
BRITAIN!

STILL,
WHAT OTHER
CHOICE
HAVE WE?

GET OUT OF
OUR
HOMELAND!

GET OFF
THE PLANET!

DEATH TO THE
STINKING
MUTIES!

DEATH?

THAT'S WHAT HE SAID, *SHADOWCAT*.

LET'S *KILL*
THEM HERE
AND NOW!

LYNCH
'EM!



STRING
'EM UP!

WE MUST
PROCEED
WITH
EXTREME
CAUTION!



YEAH, I THINK WE'VE ALL FIGURED
THAT OUT, *PHOENIX*!



AND...

I SUSPECTED IT WOULD COME TO THIS!

IF ONLY YOU HADN'T DOUBTED ME.

I WOULD HAVE TO HAVE BEEN AN IMBECILE TO PUT MY COMPLETE TRUST IN YOU, JOHANN.

DESPITE YOUR LOVE OF THE FATHERLAND, HERR SCHMIDT, YOU ARE... TOO AMBITIOUS.

HE WAS... HE WAS MY HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE REICH. BUT HE HAS CHANGED...

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THAT THERE WERE OTHER HOPE-- OTHERS WHO SHARED YOUR DREAM.

A DREAM THAT XAVIER HAS SHATTERED. HE MUST BE STOPPED!

QUITE IRONIC, ISN'T IT. MY LEADER, WHEN WE EXAMINE THE PREDICAMENT THAT XAVIER HAS CREATED FOR US?

AND NOW YOU TURN TO --

THE RED SKULL!

YES.

CAN I COUNT ONCE MORE UPON YOUR LOYALTY, MY ALLY?

AS ALWAYS, MEIN FUHRER!

HEIL HITLER!

WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE WE DO, JOHANN?

WHILE...

I MUST PLAN
MY NEXT MOVES
WITH GREAT
CAUTION.

I HAVE COME
TOO FAR TO
LET ANYTHING
STAND IN
MY WAY!

THERE ARE THOSE
OF GREAT **POWER**
WHO ARE **LOYAL**
TO ME--

--THOSE WHO WOULD DO
WHATEVER I DESIRE?



--MUTANTS WHO I EXPERIMENTED ON
EARLIER AND STILL ALLOWED TO LIVE
THAT THEY MIGHT SERVE THE REICH--



I NEED THEM HERE BY
MY SIDE. THE **ULTIMATE**
CONFLICT WILL SOON
UPON US!

I MUST **FOCUS**
MY THOUGHTS--

--REACH OUT
WITH MY MIND AND
CONTACT--



LIGHTNING
SQUAD!

BUT...

THIS JUST KEEPS
GETTING **STRANGER**
AND **STRANGER**!

WE'RE IN THE
BRITAIN OF THE
PRESENT, BUT OUR
AUTHORITIES HAVE
SOMEHOW JOINED
WITH THE **NAZIS**!
HOW IS SUCH A
THING POSSIBLE?

GOT TO PLAY
ALONG TILL
WE LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE
SITUATION!

YOU KNOW WHY YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED BEFORE THIS
INQUISITION --

WHY DON'T
YOU JUST FILL
US IN?

I FIND YOUR
ATTITUDE SORELY
LACKING IN
RESPECT!

REMEMBER
THAT YOUR
FATE LIES IN
OUR HANDS!

YOU ARE
AT OUR
MERCY!

THAT'LL BE THE DAY!

OKAY, **LIGHTNING SQUAD**, WHAT DO YOU SAY WE JUST --

LIGHTNING
SQUAD? WHY
DID YOU CALL
US THAT?

I -- I...

NO!

NO!

I SENSE SOMETHING, SOMETHING
FAMILIAR-- AND YET SOMETHING
COMPLETELY **FOREIGN**... COMPLETELY
FILLED WITH **HATE**!

EXCUSE ME... I
THINK I'M GOING
TO BE **SICK**!



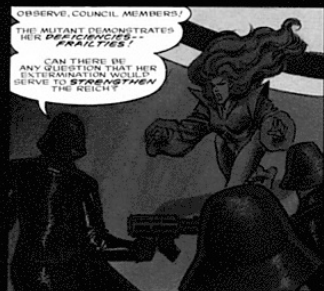
SOMETHING IS
RAVISHING
MY MIND--

-- VIOLATING
MY VERY SOUL!

OBSERVE, COUNCIL MEMBERS!

THE MUTANT DEMONSTRATES
HER **DEFEATANCES**--
FRAILTIES!

CAN THERE BE
ANY QUESTION THAT HER
EXTERMINATION WOULD
SERVE TO **STRENGTHEN**
THE REICH?



YOU WILL NOT HARM
MY FRIEND!

WHY, I OUGHT TO--

WHAT YOU OUGHT TO DO IS
ALLOW ME TO TELEPORT
YOU TO--



-- SAFETY?

PERHAPS WE'D BEST
TRY THAT AGAIN!

I HARDLY KNOW
WHAT IS GOING ON
AROUND HERE--



-- BUT ONE THING'S
CERTAIN, I'M NOT
GOING TO LET
THESE CREEPS
KID ONE OF
MY TEAMMATES!

I-I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE
UNTIL NOW I **FEEL** SORTED
MORE THAN ONCE--

-- INSTINCTIVELY
AND WITHOUT
PAIN!



DON'T HAVE
THE TIME
TO ANALYZE
THINGS NOW!
THEY'RE STILL
SHOOTING
AT KITTY!

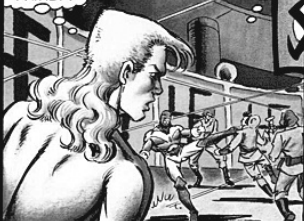
ENOUGH OF THIS! IF THE MUTANTS
DO NOT **SURRENDER**, WE WILL
UNLEASH THE **NERVE GAS**--

-- FIRST ON THE
SO-CALLED
SHADOWCAT--



-- THEN ON
THE REST OF HER
TEAMMATES!

NO ONE EVER
SAID THEY
WOULD FIGHT
FAIRLY!

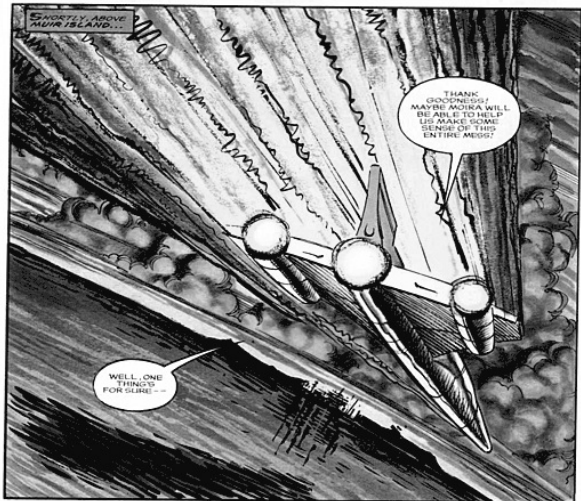


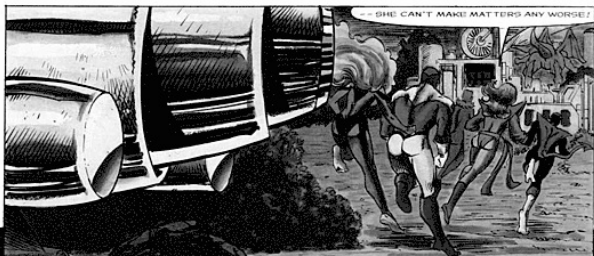
I AM SORRY,
MY FRIEND.

I PRAY YOU'LL
FORGIVE ME!



Urrackh





--REICHMINISTER
OF GENETICS!

AT LAST
IT'S **BEGINNING**
TO MAKE GENGE.
MEETING THIS
VERSION OF MOIRA
HAS CLARIFIED A
GREAT DEAL
OF WHAT IS
GOING ON.

THIS IS **OUR**
WORLD... BUT IT
IS **ALSO** THE WORLD
ON WHICH WE FIRST
ENCOUNTERED THE
REICHMINISTER!

IN SOME
INEXPLICABLE
WAY OUR **TWO**
DISTINCT WORLDS
ARE BEING DRAWN
TOGETHER! THEY
ARE BLENDING
INTO **ONE!**

REX CALIBUR
#10 AGAIN.

MAYBE
SHE CAN HELP
US! WE'VE GOT
TO HEAR HER
OUT!

ARE YOU
KIDDING
ME?

YOU HEAR HER OUT?
I'M GOING TO REPAY
HER FOR WHAT SHE DID
TO THIS WORLD'S
VERSION OF
KITTY PRYDE!

KRAK

IF THAT IS THE CASE, IMPULSIVE ONE, FIRST
YOU WILL BE FORCED TO BATTLE--



HOLY--

IF THAT IS THE CASE, IMPULSIVE ONE, FIRST
YOU WILL BE FORCED TO BATTLE--





--THE
REICHSMEN!





YOU PICKED
THE WRONG TIME
TO HESITATE,
YOUNG ONE!



YOU HAVE
FALLEN BEFORE
THE MIND-PIERCING
SCREAMS OF THE SAVAGES!



AND YOU SHALL FAIRE NO BETTER AGAINST
THE POWERS OF MAVOK!

HE'S
ALMOST
RIGHT!

EVEN MY INHERENT
ABILITIES WOULDN'T
BE STRONG ENOUGH
TO STAND AGAINST
HIS COSMIC BLASTS
WITHOUT THE MYSTIC
ENHANCEMENTS
PROVIDED BY
MY COSTUME!



SORRY, DARLIN',
BUT YOU WON'T BE
HITTING ROGUE
LIKE THAT!



NOT THEN PERHAPS
THIS WILL DO!



MEGGAN SO RARELY UTILIZES HER MORE FORCEFUL ABILITIES. I WONDER WHY...

SHE MAY NEVER HAVE USED THEM ON SOMEONE WITH POWERS LIKE ROGUE.

MEGGAN HAS TEMPORARILY LOST HER POWERS TO ROGUE-- BUT ROGUE IS COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL, UNABLE TO MANIPULATE MEGGAN'S SHAPE-SHIFTING ABILITY!



NOW IT'S MY TURN.

DON'T WORRY, MEIN FREUND--

-- THE CAT DOES NOT HAVE YOUR TONGUE!

I AM MERELY TAKING YOU--



--FOR A LITTLE RIDE--

--AFTER A FASHION

IT'S JUST A PITY THAT MULTIPLE TELEPORTATION--

--IS A STRAIN ONLY I CAN ENDURE!



HAVOK'S EXPENDED A GREAT DEAL OF ENERGY-- I HAVEN'T HAD TO DO ANYTHING YET...

...EXCEPT STAND HERE AND LET HIM WEAR HIMSELF OUT!

BUT NOW--

--THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE!

BANGSHIE'S SCREAM DIDN'T KEEP ME OUT FOR LONG -- BUT I ALMOST WISH IT DID! I CAN HARDLY BRING MYSELF TO BATTLE THE ELEMENTAL POWER OF STORM --

-- EVEN IF SHE ISN'T THE SAME ORORO THAT I CAME TO CALL MY FRIEND.

IN SOME WAYS THIS IS EVEN HARDER --

-- ESPECIALLY WHEN THE PERSON I KNEW AND LOVED IS DEAD!

KORSO SMADOWCAT -- AND THE REST OF OUR WORLD -- BELIEVES.

IT DOESN'T HELP ANY WHEN I SEE THAT SHE, TOO, IS A VICTIM OF THE HORRORS PERPETRATED BY THE POWERS THAT RULE HER WORLD!

STILL, IF IT'S GOING TO BE ME OR HER --

YOO-HOO!

TAP
TAP
TAP

-- IT'S GOING TO BE HER!

KBAM



CAN'T SEEM TO SHAKE
THIS FEELING
SOMETHING *FEARING*
AT MY BRAIN!

REACHED OUT
WITH THE *PSI-POWERS*
OF MY MIND-- ONLY TO
ENCOUNTER AN ENTITY
OF *UNREASONABLE*
ENERGIES!
WHO-- *WHAT*--
CAN IT BE?

IN A WORD--



--*PHOENIX!*

AND NOW, *PSYLOCKE*.
IT IS TIME YOU
LEARNED THE TRUE
MEANING OF *POWER!*



ARRGGRRGGGH!

HAVE TO KEEP
REMINING MYSELF
THAT THIS *PSYLOCKE*
IS NOT MY SISTER
BETSY BRADDOCK--
NO MATTER HOW
STRONG THE
SIMILARITY!

BUT ACCORDING TO
PHOENIX-- OUR WORLD HAS
COMBINED WITH THEIRS!



I CAN SEE THAT YOU
ARE CONFUSED--AND WELL
YOU MIGHT BE...

... BUT IT IS NOT
ENTIRELY TRUE THAT
I AM *LADY MOIRA*
McTAGGERT!

AS WORLDS COLLIDED, EACH OF US EXPERIENCED
SOMETHING OF A *RE-BIRTH*--PHYSICAL
AND INTELLECTUAL TRAITS COMBINING IN MUCH
THE SAME WAY THAT *DNA* WOULD IN ORDER TO
DETERMINE DOMINANT AND RECESSIVE
TRAITS AT BIRTH.

THOUGH, FOR ALL
INTENTS AND PURPOSES
I APPEAR TO BE THE
REICHSMINISTER. IT IS
THE MIND OF THE *MOIRA*
THAT YOU ARE FAMILIAR
WITH THAT IS
DOMINANT WITHIN
THIS BODY!

TRUST ME
I AM GOING TO
HELP YOU!

QUICKLY--
PUT
THESE ON!

ELSEWHERE...

THESE LABS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OFF-LIMITS BECAUSE OF YOUR WORK ON THE X-MAN EXPERIMENT! WHY HAVE YOU SUDDENLY DECIDED TO SHOW ME THE RESULTS?

BECAUSE THE TIME DRAWS NEAR.

I THOUGHT THAT YOU, OF ALL LOYAL NAZI SUBJECTS, SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF THE NATURE OF MY WORK!

OF COURSE, WILL I BE SEEING THEN YOUR PROGRESS ON THE X-MAN?

ALL IN GOOD TIME, JOHANN. ALL IN GOOD TIME...

HERE WE FIND A MOST PECULIAR-- AND AT ONE TIME, **POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS**-- CASE.

HE WAS ABLE, FOR SOME TIME, TO DISGUISE THE FACT THAT HE WAS A MUTANT BY WEARING A PAIR OF **RUBY-QUARTZ GLASSES**.

THEY WERE CRUDELY CONSTRUCTED, BUT EFFECTIVE IN CONTAINING THE FORCE OF HIS **CONCLUSIVE OPTIC BLASTS**!

HE WAS FORMING SOME SORT OF **RESISTANCE**... BUT IT WAS IN ITS NASCENT STAGES AND EASILY ELIMINATED!

OF COURSE, THE MAN HIMSELF IS NO LONGER OF ANY CONCERN TO US, ONLY THE ENERGY HE WAS ABLE TO HARNESS.

WE'LL BE SEEING THE REST OF HIS TEAMMATES IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS!

HERE'S ONE SOMEHOW, THE UNFORTUNATE CREATURE ACTUALLY GREW A PAIR OF WINGS.

WE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT AT FIRST--THOUGHT IT MUST HAVE BEEN SCIENTIFICALLY ACHIEVED!

AS YOU CAN SEE, WE WERE WRONG!

UNFORTUNATELY, HIS REMAINS PROVIDE US WITH LITTLE THAT WE COULD NOT ASCERTAIN BY EXPLORING THE FUNCTIONS OF A BIRD.

AT BEST, THIS... THIS **THING**... WOULD HAVE SERVED AS A FREAK SHOW ATTRACTION!

HIS VALUE WAS SADLY OVERESTIMATED!

WHAT IS THIS?

JUST SOME
POOR, UNFORTUNATE
BEAST. LIKELY, WE'VE
DONE HIM A FAVOR --
WHAT KIND OF LIFE
COULD HE TRULY
FIND AMONG
REAL MEN?

AT LEAST DISSECTING HIS CARCASS MAY PROVE
TO BE OF SOME VALUE TO THE REICH.

POSSIBLE, HOWEVER DOUBTFUL.

I HAVE HELD OFF MY PHYSICAL
EXPERIMENTS ON THIS NEXT SPECIMEN.
AS HE HAS THE ABILITY TO CONTROL
INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL TEMPERATURES
SURROUNDING HIS BODY.

I FEEL HE MAY PROVE USEFUL
IN FIELD EXPERIMENTS IN FROZEN
NORTHERN CLIMATES. IT WILL BE QUITE
EDUCATIONAL TO SEE JUST **NOW** MUCH
HE CAN TAKE BEFORE HE PERISHES?

PERHAPS HE WILL BE ABLE TO
PROVIDE US WITH SOME **GENETIC**
INFORMATION THAT WE WILL BE ABLE
TO DUPLICATE IN **ALL** OF OUR SOLDIERS
WHO MAY BE FORCED TO BATTLE IN
FROZEN WASTELANDS.

INSTEAD, FOR THE MOMENT, I AM
BENDING HIM TO MY **WILL**... AND
TESTING HIS LOYALTY BY HAVING HIM
PERFORM SOME EXPERIMENTS -- ON
HIS FORMER GIRLFRIEND?

ACTUALLY, I QUITE
ENJOY WATCHING
HIM WORK!

HEIL
XAVIER!
HEIL
HITLER!

HEIL...
XAVIER??

HERR XAVIER, ONCE AGAIN I MUST
THANK YOU FOR SPARING MY LIFE.
YOU HAVE SHOWN ME THE ERROR
OF MY WAYS.

YES, OF
COURSE.

NOW, IF YOU WOULD PLEASE
CONTINUE WITH YOUR STUDIES OF THE
GREEN-HAIRED WRETCH...

AS YOU
WISH!

HEIL XAVIER!
HEIL HITLER!

I HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED
VIEWING MY WORK. IT
CLEARLY SHOWS HOW I DEAL
WITH THOSE I PERCEIVE AS
ENEMIES OF THE REICH!

INDEED.



AND... WHO
IS THIS
HAG?

ANOTHER OF
THE
TRAITORS!

KILL YOU,
XAVIER... KILL...
KILL...

ACTUALLY, SHE
WAS ONCE QUITE
ATTRACTIVE.

BUT SHE SPURNED
MY ADVANCES! HER
FATE IS WELL-
DESERVED!

...KILL!!!



OH, XAVIER, I HAVE NEGLECTED TO INFORM YOU OF THE TRUE REASON I CAME TO SEE YOU!

TRUE REASON?

INDEED.
THE FUHRER
WOULD HAVE
A WORD WITH
YOU --





--AT
ONCE!



FIND...

YOU HAVE KEPT ME WAITING,
HERR XAVIER!



I AM NOT PLEASED!



HAVE
YOU NO
CONCERN
FOR--



MY ONLY CONCERN
IS FOR THE FUTURE
OF THE REICH!



YOU DARE SPEAK
THIS WAY TO
YOUR LEADER?!

NO...

...I DARE SPEAK
THIS WAY
TO YOU!!

I WARN YOU, XAVIER, THAT
I AM NOT AS FAR GONE AS YOU
SEEM TO BELIEVE.

KEEP TELLING
YOURSELF THAT,
OLD FRIEND.

IT MAY BE
ENOUGH TO
CONVINCE THE
OTHERS--

-- YOU MIGHT
EVEN
BELIEVE IT...



SHORTLY...



WE
MADE
IT!

NIGHTCRAWLER,
YOU'RE
WONDERFUL!

AND IT IS A
WONDERFUL FEELING
TO TELEPORT ALL
OF US WITHOUT
HAVING TO FEAR FOR
YOUR SAFETY...

-- OR THE *RAW* IT
WOULD CAUSE ME IF
I WERE NOT NOW THE
COMBINATION OF TWO
KURT WAGNERS.

THE NIGHTCRAWLER
WHO IS A MEMBER OF
LIGHTNING SQUAD
NEVER SUFFERED THE
INJURY THAT THE
NIGHTCRAWLER WHO
IS A MEMBER OF
EXCALIBUR
EXPERIENCED!

IT SEEMS AS IF THE
MIND OF
EXCALIBUR'S
NIGHTCRAWLER
IS DOMINANT...

WITHIN
THE BODY OF
LIGHTNING SQUAD'S
NIGHTCRAWLER.

YEAH,
IT'S LIKE
WE'RE ALL
TWO MEN
IN ONE!

NO!

RELAX,
PHOENIX.
MEGGAN
WAS
JUST --







HORRIBLE!
HORRIBLE!

SNAP OUT
OF IT, GIRL!



SMACK



UH-OH! MAYBE NIGHTCRAWLER'S
THEORY ISN'T EXACTLY VALID.

I SURE DIDN'T LIKE
THE LOOKS OF THAT!

I JUST
HOPE
PHOENIX--



THANK YOU,
MY FRIEND!

RACHEL,
ARE
YOU--?



FINE!

NOW LET'S
DO WHAT WE
CAME HERE
TO DO--



-- BEFORE
THAT **MADMAN**
HAD A CHANCE
TO STRIKE
AGAIN!

AS ONLY **HAUDTHORN**
BRITAIN, **MEGAN**,
SHADOWCAT AND
NIGHTCRAWLER ARE
MEMBERS OF
LIGHTNING SQUAD--

-- I WILL NOT
BE ABLE TO
ACCOMPANY YOU,
ALTHOUGH I
WILL REMAIN IN
CONSTANT MENTAL
CONTACT!



IN THAT WAY
I WILL BE ABLE
TO MONITOR THE
THOUGHTS OF ALL
THOSE YOU COME
IN CONTACT
WITH--





THIS IS AS FAR AS I CAN GO IF THIS DECEPTION IS GOING TO WORK...



-- BUT REST ASSURED THAT I WILL BE WITH YOU !

HERR XAVIER ... ?

WHY DIDN'T YOU RESPOND TO MY MENTAL COMMAND ?



WE WERE ...

... RESPONDING TO DIRECT ORDERS OF THE FUHRER !

TELL HIM YOU WERE ON A SPECIAL MISSION-- AT HITLER'S PERSONAL DIRECTIVE ?



IS THAT
SUPPOSED TO
IMPRESS
ME?

IS THAT
SUPPOSED TO
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE?

YOU ARE
ANSWERABLE
TO ME--

--AND
ONLY
ME?

I GIVE
THE
ORDERS!

IS THAT
CLEAR?!



NEED I REMIND
YOU OF THE **GHASTLY**
EXPERIMENTS THAT
MOST OF YOU HAVE
ALREADY BEEN
SPARED FROM...

YOU CAN
JUST FORGET
ABOUT THAT
PODDERING
OLD FOOL!

OR...



...SOLELY AT
MY DISCRETION?

THIS... *MAN*... IS CERTAINLY NOT LIKE THE PROFESSOR *X* THAT I KNEW!

I CAN BARELY STAND TO LOOK AT HIM! IT'S *DISGUSTING*!

HOW CAN THE MAN THE *X-GEN* KNEW AND LOVED -- THE MAN WHO WAS LIKE A *FATHER* TO ALL OF US -- POSSIBLY HAVE TURNED INTO SOMETHING SO *TWISTED*?

IT'S EVEN *WORSE* THAN WHAT HAPPENED TO MY "COUNTERPART"!

TAKE IT EASY, EXCALIBUR!

WE SHOULDN'T REVEAL OURSELVES JUST YET!

EXCALIBUR--? WHAT IS THIS?

YOU'RE *NOT* LIGHTNING SQUAD!

THAT INFORMATION ISN'T GOING TO HELP YOU MUCH, *CREEP*!

YOU ARE SADLY MISTAKEN!

NO! PSYCHIC BLAST!

CAN'T STOP THE *FIRE* IN MY BRAIN!

TOO MUCH-- CAN'T SEE THROUGH THE PAIN--!

UHH?

"PITIFUL," OBSERVES XAVIER, "THAT THEY WERE SO *EASILY* DEFEATED!"

END AT THAT
SAME TIME...

ARE YOU READY,
MEIN FUHRER?

I MUST WARN
YOU THAT YOU
MAY INITIALLY
EXPERIENCE
SOME
DISCOMFORT!!

WE NEED
NOT DELAY
A MOMENT
LONGER!

I HAD THOUGHT
DEATH WAS ALL
THAT AWAITED ME

NOW YOU
OFFER ME A
NEW LEASE
ON LIFE.

WE --

-- UNGH! --

-- DARE
NOT --

ARRGH!



EVEN WITH XAVIER UNCONSCIOUS, THE MADMAN'S "WORK" CONTINUES. HIS SUBORDINATES FOLLOWING HIS INSTRUCTIONS!



IS IT WORKING, JOHANN?



ONCE MORE -- ALL THOSE LIVES BEING SACRIFICED!



INDEED, MY LEADER, YOUR LIFE'S ENERGIES ARE BEING RESTORED!



ONCE MORE I AM FORCED TO FEEL THEIR PSYCHIC SCREAMS AS THEIR LIFE FORCES ARE DRAINED FROM THEIR BODIES!



YES, JOHANN... I FEEL IT! MY VERY LIFE IS BEING RETURNED TO ME!

"NOTHING MUST STOP ME NOW!"

"NO, MY LEADER--
NOTHING!"





PERFECT!



A DIRECT HIT!

BUT I MUSTN'T *DISTRESS* THE LEADER WITH THE EVENTS THAT ARE OCCURRING ALL AROUND US--VERY *REGULAR* EVENTS INDEED!



WE ARE AT TOO CRITICAL A JUNCTURE --



IF ONLY I HAD PERFECTED THE NEW VERSION OF THE *MULLATRON* WHEN MAX AND HIS UNDERGROUND OF RENEGADE MUTANTS RISEN AGAINST THE REIGN

AFTER ALL, IT IS CAPABLE OF INFLECTING MY *WILL* UPON ITS VICTIMS--



"-- JUST AS MY MIND HAS BEEN *INEXCAPABLY* LINKED WITH THOSE OF THE *PAWVS* I AM EVEN NOW UNLEASHING UPON XAVIER."

"EVEN XAVIER'S *PSYCHIC ABILITIES* WILL PROVE INEFFECTUAL AGAINST THEM!"



"IN FACT, NO CONSCIOUS ENTITY WOULD BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE NULLATRON."

"ABSOLUTELY NONE!"



PERFECT. JOHANN
PERFECT!

I AM, ONCE AGAIN, AT MY
PRIME!

I LOOK --
I FEEL --
JUST AS I DID
WHEN I FIRST
CONCEIVED
MY PRECIOUS
DREAM OF THE
POWER AND
THE GLORY OF
THE *THIRD*
REICH!





"NOTHING ON
EARTH WILL BE
ABLE TO STAND IN
MY WAY!"



NOTHING ON EARTH, PERHAPS...

... BUT THERE ARE FORCES THAT ARE NOT OF THIS WORLD...



... FORCES
THAT HAVE NOW
ENTERED INTO
COMMUNION!



I AM REBORN.
I AM RESURRECTED!

BUT, THE RED SKULL DOES NOT RESPOND...

...FOR, IN HIS OWN WORDS,
HIS MIND HAD BEEN
"INESCAPABLY LINKED"
WITH THOSE OF EXCALIBUR...

DO YOU
REALIZE
WHAT I AM
SAYING?

AND THEIR MINDS HAVE BECOME FOCAL POINTS FOR
OTHERWORLDLY POWERS--



...POWERS WHICH
STRIKE OUT IN
INTONSON...

...COMPLETELY
OBLITERATING
THE MIND OF
HERR XAVIER...



...LEAVING HIS
BODY NOTHING
MORE THAN AN
EMPTY HUSK!



*AND THE
RED SKULL?*



*HE, TOO, SUFFERS
THE REpercussions
OF HIS ACTIONS!*



*HE, TOO,
THIS DAY.*



*...IS MADE
TO PAY!*



JOHANN?



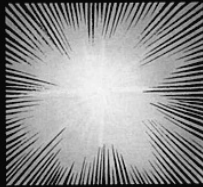
HERR
SKULL...?



HERR
SKULL!



WE MUST
STOP
WHAT WE ARE
DOING AT
ONCE!





MAN...

...AND SUPER-MAN.



OH, MY GOD!

EXACTLY WHAT I
WAS THINKING.

I CAN'T BEAR
TO LOOK ANY
LONGER--



"--SURELY HE IS
WHERE NO MAN
HAS GONE
BEFORE!"

"HEY, WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I FEEL KIND
OF FUNNY."



"THE COSMIC BALANCE
IS BEING RESTORED,"
REPLIES PHOENIX.

"WE'RE BACK AT
THE LIGHTHOUSE!"

"BUT WHAT
HAPPENED?"

"RACHEL--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAP-
PENED TO YOU!"

"I'M FINE, KITTY...AND
OUR WORLDS HAVE BEEN
RESTORED...XAVIER NO
LONGER A THREAT!"

"AND I CAN'T HELP
FEELING THAT YOUR
UNIQUE ONENESS IN
ALL THE MULTIVERSE
HAD SOMETHING TO
DO WITH IT!"

"SOMETHING,
KITTY..."

"IN SOME INEXPLICABLE FASHION IT WAS
I WHO OPENED UP THE WAY BETWEEN
WORLDS... BUT, IN TRUTH, I WAS LITTLE
MORE THAN A FUNNEL, A LINK BE-
TWEEN POWERS."

"THE ATTACKS I
EXPERIENCED--AS
WELL AS THE ATTACKS
THE DERANGED XAVIER
WAS SUBJECTED TO--

--WERE ALL THE
RESULTS OF AN
INCREDIBLE SOURCE
OF PSYCHIC
ENERGIES FROM
BEYOND!"

"IN HIS ATTEMPT TO CREATE THE X-MAN, XAVIER
RELEASED UNFOLD MENTAL ENERGIES-- ENER-
GIES WHICH COMBINED, EVOLVED--

--INEVITABLY
THEY
METAMORPHOSED
INTO AN
INDIVIDUAL
CONSCIOUSNESS--

--AN ULTIMATE
INTELLIGENCE
WHICH MINGLED
WITH XAVIER'S
CORPOREAL FORM--

--INSPIRING HIS
TRANSFIGURATION
INTO THE "X-MAN;"

AFTER ALL
IS SAID AND
DONE...

...XAVIER
SUCCEEDED FAR
BEYOND HIS
WILDEST DREAMS!



NOK NOK NOK

WHERE WERE YOU?

MEIN GOTT!

UH-OH!

ISN'T THIS WHERE WE CAME IN?

I'M AFRAID SO!

IT LOOKS LIKE OUR TROUBLE IS ONLY BEGINNING!



HEY, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU GUYS?

I WAS JUST WONDERING WHERE KITTY WAS WHEN I CAME BY EARLIER TO WORK ON OUR PROJECT.



PROJECT? I-I COMPLETELY FORGOT!



HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!



WHAT'S SO FUNNY? SOMETHING I SAID?

DON'T STRAIN YOUR BRAIN, ALISTAIR.

WHAT HAPPENED IS MORE THAN MOST WOULD BE ABLE TO FULLY COMPREHEND...



"...BUT I CAN'T HELP
FEELING THAT A WORLD
VERY MUCH IN NEED
HAS AT LONG LAST
FOUND A SAVIOR!"



"...BUT I CAN'T HELP
FEELING THAT A WORLD
VERY MUCH IN NEED
HAS AT LONG LAST
FOUND A SAVIOR!"





THE END...?



THE END...?

And The
Legend Lives
On . . .



*The powerful Captain Britain, the
shape-changing Meggan, the intangible
Shadowcat, the swashbuckling
Nightcrawler, the mysterious Phoenix, and
Lockheed the Dragon...*

*Forged in the fires of their tragic pasts,
they have banded together to fight
a modern-day crusade against
the forces of evil.*

*An age-old evil has firmly established
itself in another dimension. But now,
realities are crossing and the malevolent
power—with the help of some well-known
mutants—threatens to gain a
foothold on Earth...*



ISBN 0-87135-702-X



9 780871 357021

ISBN # 0-87135-702-X